

Remarks/Arguments

Claims 1-30 remain pending in the application. Reconsideration and reexamination are requested.

As an initial matter, the Examiner objected to the title of the invention as not being descriptive. As shown in the Amendments to the Specification portion of this paper, the title has been changed to "Pot-Shaped Vessel And Lid With Tab For Unlatching And Lifting Off Of Lid".

In addition, the Office Action objected to reference character **11** being used for both the "body" and the "circumferential flange" in the specification of the U.S. application. The specification has been corrected to indicate that the circumferential flange is identified as reference numeral **16**. Accordingly, no new matter has been entered.

Claims 1-30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph for the use of "it's", for the lack of antecedent basis, and for the use of alternative language for the structural features. These informalities have been corrected as shown herein in amended claims 1-30. Accordingly, no new matter has been entered.

In addition, various portions of the specification have been amended as shown in the Amendments to the Specification portion of this paper to remove specific references to the claims. Accordingly, no new matter has been entered.

Claims 1-3, 10, 19, and 24-26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Cookson (DE 1 052 177). Claims 4-9, 11-18, 20-23 and 27-30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Cookson (DE 1 052 177).

Cookson appears to disclose a kind of zipper system for lifting a lid rim from a circumferential flange of an outwardly projecting edge of a bucket body. This zipper system appears to comprise a slide **17 (FIG. 1)**, **26 (FIG. 6)**, **20 (FIG. 9)**, and **19b (FIG. 12)** as well as a hand grip **21 (FIG. 1)** and **26b (FIG. 12)** which is pivotable about a vertical axis. The hand grip **21**, **26b** is provided with a cam track **23**, **29b** at an inward longitudinal edge covered by the circumferential lid rim, the cam track coming into operative relationship with the end edge of the circumferential lid rim upon pivotal movement of the hand grip.

Some differences between Cookson and the present invention should be noted. Since the slide of Cookson is movable in a circumferential direction, the hand grip **21**, **26b** is arranged *beneath* the circumferential flange of the body and the free end edge of the lid. This is in contrast to the present invention where the hand grip (recited as a tab in claim 1) is *integrated into the circumferential flange* at a particular position and interrupt said flange (i.e. forms a recess in the flange). The slide of Cookson is movable in the circumferential direction of the bucket body together with the hand grip, and *arranging the hand grip or a tab in its latching position within a recess of the circumferential flange* of the bucket body and aligned to the circumferential flange are features not taught or disclosed by Cookson.

With reference to claim 4 and the pivot axis being formed by a film hinge, by virtue of the elastic film hinge **45**, the tab **36** may move back into its initial position again so that, for example, after the contents of the bucket **10** have been used, the lid **12** can also be latched on again. In Cookson, the handle **21** must be repositioned manually.

Accordingly, it is submitted that the afore-mentioned features of the present invention are not present in the cited art and that the present invention is therefore distinguished over the cited art.

For the reasons noted above, it is believed that the outstanding rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102/103 have now been fully considered and traversed.

In consideration of the amendments to the claims and the remarks hereinabove, Applicants respectfully submit that all claims currently pending in the application are believed to be in condition for allowance. Allowance at an early date is respectfully solicited.

In the event the Examiner deems personal contact is necessary, please contact the undersigned attorney at (603) 668-6560. In the event there are any fee deficiencies or additional fees are payable, please charge them (or credit any overpayment) to our Deposit Account No. 50-2121.

Respectfully submitted,

/Steven J Grossman/

Steven J. Grossman
Attorney for Applicant
Reg. No. 35,001
Customer No. 32047
Grossman Tucker Perreault & Pfleger,
PLLC
55 South Commercial St.
Manchester, NH 03101